

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 06598 131937Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-14 /087 W  
-----080352 140245Z /20

R 131900Z SEP 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3656  
INFO PANCANAL  
USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 6598

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO

PANCANAL FOR IO

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SOPN, PN  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

FOLLOWING SENT FROM USIS/PANAMA REPEATED FOR YOU ACTION/INFO

UNCLAS

SECSTATE FOR ARA/PAF & PAN

USIA FOR ILA, IBS/ PL, IPS/PL

MEDIA REACTION

1. PANAMA CITY.-- CANAL TREATY: NEWS COVERAGE AND COMMENTARY OF  
TREATY ISSUE DROPS TO MODERATE IN SEPT. 13 MORNINGERS. PRO-GOP  
ENGLISH STAR AND HERALD FRONT PAGES, PRO-GOP CRITICA RUNS INSIDE  
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PAGE WITH FRONT PAGE HEAD, AND SEMI-INDEPENDENT LA ESTRELLA  
CARRIES PAGE ONE SECOND SECTION, WIRE SERVICE STORIES ON  
SEN. BAKER'S CRITICISM OF TREATY CEREMONIES AS PREMATURE. CRITICA  
ALSO RUNS FRONT PAGE EFE ITEM, "SENATORS WILL STUDY TREATIES AT  
END OF MONTH." STAR AND HERALD FRONT-PAGES AP MEXICO STORY  
REVIEWING LATAM OPINION OF TREATIES.

2. ESTRELLA RUNS PAGE TWO IPS STORY, "US CONGRESS AND CANAL TREATY," AND FRONT PAGE OF SECOND SECTION IPS STORY, "LATJM PRESS PRAISES TREATIES." PRO-GOP MATUTINO FRONT PAGES IPS ITEM, "RICHARD ARELLANO SAYS TREATIES FOMENT STABLE COMMERCIAL CLIMATE."

3. CRITICA EDIT REVIEWS TORRIJOS INTERVIEW WITH US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT AND SUPPORTS HIS VIEW THAT CANAL IS INDEFENSIBLE. CIRTICA DISAGREES WITH INTERPRETATIONS OF TREATY THAT WILL GIVE US RIGHTS TO DEFEND NEUTRALITY AFTER YEAR 2000: "UNDoubtedly THE PARTICIPATION FOR 23 YEARS OF US IN DEFENSE OF WATERWAY AND MAINTENANCE OF ITS NEUTRALITY COULD GIVE RISE TO THESE INTERPRETATIVE REPLAYS WHICH HAVE DONE US SUCH HARM. BUT NOW THE CONCEPT OF PERMANENT NEUTRALITY IS FAR FROM BEING A PERPETUAL GUARANTEE OF THIS NEUTRALITY BY US. PANAMA CAN INDEED MAINTAIN THIS GUARANTEE FOR LIFE OF CANAL, WHEN IT IS MASTER OF THE WORK AND WITH SUPPORT OF ALL NATIONS WHICH WILL SIGN NEUTRALITY PACT."

4. SEPT. 12 AFTERNOONER LA REPUBLICA COLUMNIST MARIO AUGUSTO SAYS THAT IN FACT PANAMANIANS WILL HAVE EFFECTIVE CONTROL IN 13 YEARS, NOT 23, SINCE AT THAT TIME DIRECTOR OF PANCANAL COMMISSION WILL BE PANAMANIAN: "I THINK WE CAN EXPECT... THAT PRACTICAL EFFECTIVENESS OF FOREIGN PRESENCE ON OUR GROUND WILL HAVE ALMOST ENDED, NOT WITHIN 23 YEARS, BUT WITHIN 13 YEARS. AND 10 YEARS IS AN APPRECIABLE DIFFERENCE IN THIS CASE."

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5. FELLOW LA REPUBLICA COLUMNIST GRISELDA LOPEZ COUNSELS CAUTION IN DEALINGS WITH US: "TREATY HAS NEGATIVE ASPECTS; OUR ATTITUDE MUST BE OF PERMANENT VIGILANCE SO THAT THESE NEGATIVE ASPECTS DO NOT DEVELOP... MOMENTS OF EUPHORIA WERE AND ARE IMPORTANT... BUT NOW REMAINS CIVIC ATTITUDE, PERMANENT REFLECTION, BECAUSE WE CAN AT NO TIME LOWER OUR GUARD. INGENUOUS OR CHILDISH TRIUMPH ALSO SIGNIFIES IRRESPONSIBILITY." LOPEZ CONCLUDES, "WE MUST REMEMBER THAT IMPERIALISM, THE COLOSSUS OF THE NORTH STILL HAS POSSIBILITIES TO EXERCISE CONTRARY ACTION, AND IT IS NOT GOOD FAITH ALONE WHICH WILL GIVE US THE GUARANTEE. THAT WHICH WE HAVE ACHIEVED UP TO NOW IS RESULT OF A STRUGGLE; THAT WHICH WE ACHIEVE TOMORROW WILL ALSO BE PRODUCT OF STRUGGLE. WE WILL GET NOTHING FOR FREE; EVERY CONQUEST IS PRODUCT OF DAILY EFFORT BY THE PEOPLE."

6. REPUBLICA EDIT CALLS ON PANAMANIAN YOUTH TO PREPARE THEMSELVES IN "SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL AREAS TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY WHICH WILL FALL ON THEM WHEN WE BEGIN OCCUPYING COMMAND POSTS... OF CANAL: OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, WELL-BEING OF WATERWAY... IF WE DO NOT ACT IN TIME, WE WILL FIND OURSELVES FACE TO FACE WITH NECESSITY OF IMPROVISING TECHNICIANS, SPECIALISTS, ETC., WHICH MUST NOT BE ALLOWED WHEN IT IS A QUESTION OF SUCH A DELICATE ENGINEERING COMPLEX... WE MUST CONFRONT (THIS SITUATION) WITH

THE SAME DECISIVENESS WHICH WE PUT INTO THE STRUGGLE TO REGAIN  
WHAT WAS PROPERLY OURS."

ITEM  
JORDEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** SOPN, EWWW, PN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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